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HEAD-QUARTERS, ARMY OF TENNESSEE,

October 14th, 1863.

SOLDIERS:

grateful country has recognized your arduous service, and cheered over your glorious victory on the field of Chickamauga. In your countrymen shall more fully learn the adverse circumstances under which you attacked the enemy—though they may not be more thankful—they may admire more the gallantry and patriotic devotion which secured your success. Representatives of every State of the Confederacy, your steps have been followed with affectionate solicitude by friends in every portion of the country. Defenders of the heart of our territory, your movements have been the object of intensest anxiety. The hopes of our cause greatly depend upon you, and happy it is that all can securely rely upon your achieving whatever, under the blessing of Providence, human power can effect. Though you have done much, very much yet remains to be done. Behind you is a people providing for your support and depending on you for protection. Before you is a country devastated by your ruthless invader, where gentle woman, feeble age and helpless infancy have been subjected to outrages without parallel in the warfare of civilized nations. With eager eyes they watch

your coming to their deliverance, and the homeless refugees for the hour when your victorious arms shall restore him to the shelter from which they have been driven. Forced to take up arms to vindicate the political rights, the freedom, liberty and State sovereignty which were the heritage purchased by the blood of your Revolutionary sires, you have but alternative of slavish submission to despotic usurpation, or the independence which vigorous, united, persistent effort will secure. All which fires the manly breast, nerves the patriot and exalts the hero, is present to stimulate and sustain you.

Nobly have you redeemed the pledges given in the name of freedom to the memory of your ancestors and the rights of your posterity. That you may complete the mission to which you are devoted, will require of you such exertion in the future as you have made in the past: continuance in the patient endurance of toil and danger, and that self-denial which rejects every consideration at variance with the public service as unworthy of the holy cause in which you are engaged.

When the war shall have ended the highest meed of praise will be due, and probably given, to him who has claimed least for himself in proportion to the service he has rendered, and the bitterest self-reproach which may hereafter haunt the memory of any one will be to him who has allowed selfish aspiration to prevail over a desire for the public good. United as you are in a common destiny, obedience and cordial co-operation are essentially necessary, and there is no higher duty than that which requires each to render to all what is due to their station. He who sows the seeds of discontent and distrust prepares for the harvest of slaughter and defeat.

To zeal you have added gallantry; to gallantry, energy; to energy, fortitude. Crown these with harmony, due subordination and cheerful support of lawful authority, that the measure of your duty may be full. I fervently hope that the ferocious war, so unjustly waged against our country, may be soon ended, that, with the blessing of peace, you may be restored to your homes and the useful pursuits; and I pray that our Heavenly Father may cover you with the shield of His protection in the hours of battle, and endow you with the virtues which will close your trials in victory complete.

[SIGNED,]

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

OFFICIAL.

GEORGE WM. BRENT, A. A. General.

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